



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



Phone: 860-713-2501
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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 3, 2012

I. CONVENE MEETING

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, council chair, called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m. He welcomed recent appointee Greg Veneziano to the council.

In addition to Chairman Reviczky, the following council members were present: Erica Andrews, Allyn Brown, III, Winter Caplanson, James Guida, George Hindinger, Herb Holden, Jr., Jamie Jones, Michael Keilty, Shelly Oechsler, Kevin Sullivan, Jr., Henry Talmage, Greg Veneziano, and Dr. Greg Weidemann.

Also present were Linda Piotrowicz from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and Jiff Martin from the University of Connecticut.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. JANUARY 5, 2012

George Hindinger moved to approve the January 5, 2012, meeting minutes. Michael Keilty seconded. The council unanimously accepted the motion.

B. FEBRUARY 14, 2012

George Hindinger moved to approve the February 14, 2012, meeting minutes. Shelly Oechsler seconded. The council unanimously accepted the motion.

III. REMARKS BY CHAIR

Chairman Reviczky explained that since the last council meeting on February 14, 2012, he and the vice chairs had met two or three times to develop a framework for the council's work in the coming year and beyond, emphasizing that he understood that members' time was limited and therefore he wanted to make the best use and most productive use of that time.

Chairman Reviczky thanked Dean Weidemann and Henry Talmage for their dedication to the council's charge and commitment of their own time and staff resources to assist with that work.

Chairman Reviczky reviewed the organizational structure of the working groups and introduced the proposed planning project for the coming year, explaining that the project and working group efforts would occur concurrently.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. STRUCTURE/WORKING GROUPS/NOMINATIONS

Chairman Reviczky reviewed the working group structure and explained that each group would be populated by nine people, including the group chair. Working group members would not be limited to council members but would include stakeholders.

He also explained that the process by which each group worked may be a little different based upon topics and priorities, but could involve in-person meetings, phone, and email. Ideas should percolate from the bottom up, rather than simply from the top down.

He asked council members to submit nominations for working group members on the form provided in the meeting package.



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B. PLANNING PROCESS

The council reviewed the proposed process document that was included in the meeting package. Jiff Martin, UConn Extension, explained that the planning project would involve a series of in-depth interviews, followed by listening sessions and focus groups in different areas of the state, and a statewide summit at the end of the year. As a result of this input, a living document would be produced that would represent a plan for the future of Connecticut agriculture. There was consensus around the proposed process.

Commissioner Reviczky asked council members to submit recommendations for people to be included in the interviews, listening sessions, and focus groups on the form included in the meeting package.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the name of the project and the document/deliverable it will produce. Many suggestions were considered before "Grow Connecticut Farms: Developing, Diversifying, and Promoting Agriculture" was agreed upon. Michael Keilty moved to adopt this name for the project. Shelly Oechsler seconded. The council unanimously passed the motion.

V. NEXT MEETINGS

The next quarterly meeting of the council will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. The fourth quarter meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Chairman Reviczky adjourned meeting at 3:23 p.m.